

Board of Health Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2012

Board Members & Liaisons Present:

Constance Young, EdD, RN, Chairperson
Ernest Judson, Vice Chairperson
William F. Lynch, MD
Holly Mulrenan, BSN, RN, MS
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison

Board Members & Liaisons not present:

Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN, Secretary
Atty. Christine M. Gonillo
Mitchell Quintner, DMD
Susan Shaw, Board of Alderman Liaison
George Gensure, Board of Education Liaison

Others Present: None

Health Department Staff Present

A. Dennis McBride, MD, MPH, Health Director
Beverly Hayes, BS, Administrative Assistant

C. Young called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. She then turned the meeting over E. Judson for the Election of Officers.

Election of 2012 Officers

The following officers were elected for 2012 and approved unanimously:

Chairperson – Constance Young on a motion by E. Judson, seconded by W. Lynch.
Vice Chairperson – Ernie Judson on a motion by C. Young, seconded by W. Lynch.
Secretary – Holly Mulrenan on a motion by C. Young seconded by E. Judson.

The meeting was turned back over to C. Young, elected Chairperson.

Approval of Minutes – December 13, 2011

The minutes of the meetings held on December 13, 2011 were approved unanimously on a motion by E. Judson and seconded by W. Lynch.

Approval of Meeting Time for 2012

There was discussion as to changing the meeting time from 6:30 pm. to 6:00 pm. The meeting time for 2012 was changed to 6 pm. on a motion by E. Judson and seconded by B. Lynch and approved unanimously.

Environmental Health Report – Laura Miller, RS

Cold Weather Sheltering

During extremely cold temperatures, when the temperature coupled with the wind chill fall below 32 degrees, the Beth-el Center opens a no-freeze shelter. Since its inception in 2008, the shelter accommodates people who have no other options for over-night housing in extreme cold weather. The no-freeze shelter can house up to eight individuals overnight, and is open from 9 p.m. – 7 a.m. This shelter is available during extreme cold temperatures and is for overnight only; Individuals must leave during the day. The Beth-el Center opened the no freeze shelter during the middle of December 2011 on the nights when the temperature and/or wind chill went below 32 degrees. This will continue on during the winter months under those weather conditions.

Anti-blight activities

As of the week ending January 16, 2012, the Health Department received 46 total complaints of blight since the beginning of the 2011/2012 fiscal year. Since the ordinance went into effect in September of 2009, the Division received a total of 282 complaints. Over time each complaint is in various stages of the process, some properties do not meet the criteria set up in the anti-blight ordinance and are being investigated under the Housing or General Public Health codes. Others are in compliance and show no cause for enforcement action, while others are still in progress or under investigation.

Currently, seven properties failed to comply with the orders defined in the Notice of Violation and have been referred to the City Attorney's office for enforcement action. The owners of these properties may be fined \$100 for each day the violation(s) continue to exist after the compliance date specified in the notice of violation. These seven properties are actively accruing \$100 dollars/day for non-compliance with the anti-blight ordinance.

Total # of blight complaints since ordinance implementation	FY 2011/2012	Currently under orders - NOV <u>OPEN</u>	No cause for enforcement action	Referred to City Attorney <u>OPEN</u>
282	46	24	37	7

Comments:

E. Judson inquired as to numbers of those using the cold weather shelter and what happens should those seeking shelter go over the eight allotted beds. Dr. McBride referred him to the Fire Chief as he is the Emergency Manager for the City of Milford and is in charge of the shelter. C. Young concluded that it is not an emergency shelter, just for cold weather as necessary

Nursing Division Report – Joan Cagginello

Seasonal Flu and Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Campaign

Connecticut is reporting “sporadic” influenza cases at this time. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) describes sporadic as *small numbers of laboratory- confirmed influenza cases or a single laboratory-confirmed influenza outbreak has been reported, but there is no increase in cases of Influenza Like Illness (ILI)*. ILI is defined by the CDC as fever (temperature of 100°F or greater) and cough and/or sore throat. In keeping with this observation from CDC, Connecticut as well as 48 other states have experienced minimal ILI activity. Nationwide, 1.4% of patient visits in the United States were due to ILI. This is noted to be below the national baseline of 2.4%. The Milford School Nurses continue to monitor daily ILI in the schools and they have not reported any increase of students presenting with ILI. Currently in Milford we have had only one confirmed case of influenza and only three confirmed cases in New Haven County.

As planned, the Health Department continues to provide influenza immunizations to adults and children over nine years of age at our monthly immunization clinics.

Southern Connecticut State University Nursing Students

The Health Department will provide a learning experience in school and community nursing for senior nursing students from Southern Connecticut State University for the spring semester. We will have eight students who will divide their time between school nursing experience and working with the Visiting Nurses Association. The students will work with the school nurses in assessment of students, providing daily care, performing mandated screenings and learning the role of the school nurse in the education environment.

School Health Services

The Milford Board of Education unanimously passed the revised Medication Administration Policy & Procedure on January 9, 2012. The nurse administrator will review the policy and procedure with our nursing staff at their January staff meeting to ensure that the policy is implemented and followed at all schools.

The Health Department has participated in a new *School Discount Program* from Dey Pharmaceuticals related to the purchase of EpiPens for our schools. It is imperative to have stock Epinephrine (an emergency medication) available in the schools in case of anaphylaxis from an allergic reaction. An EpiPen provides the most convenient & efficient method for administering epinephrine in an emergency. Dr. McBride as the School Medical Advisor provides an annual standing order for the medication. The *School Discount Program* offers EpiPens at a fraction of the cost if purchased independently. This program will provide each Milford School with stock EpiPens through a collaboration between Dey Pharmaceutical, Howe’s Pharmacy and the Milford Health Department.

Comments: None

Emergency Preparedness Reports

Regional/CRI Emergency Preparedness Report – Steve Maheux

Upcoming Workshops

We have met with special agents from the FBI, as well as the Region 2 hazmat coordinator regarding a workshop that focuses on Biological Threats and Hazardous Materials. Our plan is to

hold a workshop in 2 phases: the first phase will consist of a hazardous materials overview course, as well as a presentation on the roles and responsibilities of different entities during a hazmat event, scheduled for Thursday, January 19th. The second phase is with the FBI and will address WMD response and potential overlaps of criminological and epidemiological investigations. This workshop is scheduled for February 1st.

Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) Workshop

Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) is a competency-based training and recognition program that assesses preparedness planning and response efforts. The program builds preparedness capacity and capability through a continuous quality improvement model. The assessment consists of the evaluation of all-hazards preparedness plans, exercising the plans, and development of a strong workforce through training. Under contract deliverables, each of the five [5] regions in Connecticut will complete a PPHR application by 2013. We are currently working with the other regions on a portion of the application that we feel can be standardized across the state, thus improving regional response efforts.

Public Health Preparedness Contracts

All technical assistance reviews (TARs) to evaluate local mass dispensing plans have been returned to us by the State. The scores on average were consistent with last year's results. The next review is scheduled to start in early 2012. A seminar will be made available to all MDA's in the region in mid-February.

Local Emergency Preparedness/Volunteer Activity Report - Tara Mustakos

Volunteer Update

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers participated in CPR refresher training hosted by the Milford Fire Department EMS Office. Four instructors conducted the training in a two night session. Additional trainings will be scheduled for the coming year.

Local Emergency Preparedness Contract

The Milford Health Department will have the annual Technical Assessment Review (TAR) conducted by the state health department and representatives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention this year. Milford has been chosen as one of two Mass Dispensing areas to be evaluated by the CDC. TAR meetings will be scheduled for April & May 2012.

Public health emergency preparedness plans will be under review for compliance and completeness to fulfill the requirements of the TAR and planning for the Regional Project Public Health Ready application.

Comments: None

Community Health Division Report - Deepa Joseph

Disease Surveillance

There were 20 cases of disease reported for the month of December, with Chlamydia being the most reported. The Health Department has received one report of laboratory-confirmed seasonal influenza to date.

Milford Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI)

Milford's 4th PLTI will kick-off with a one-day retreat on Saturday, January 21, 2012 at the First United Church, Congregational in Milford. PLTI enables parents to become leading advocates for children in their community through participation in four phases of training—a one-day retreat, a 10-week course on parent leadership, a 10-week course on civic engagement, and a community project to practice what participants have learned within a community context. Twenty (20) individuals from various backgrounds will be participating in the program this year.

The Health Department received notification of grant awards from the following agencies to support PLTI this year:

- Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation
- First Baptist Church of Milford
- Kids Count of Milford/Graustein Discovery Initiative Option 3
- Milford Child Care Consortium
- United Way of Milford

In addition to the above agencies, Milford Public Schools will also provide support to the program in the amount of \$2,000.

Putting on AIRS Asthma Program

The program received a total of 9 referrals for the month of December, resulting in a total of 48 referrals for this contract year. The Program Coordinator, Betty Murphy, is working towards obtaining the national Asthma Educator certification. This certification will serve as an asset to the Putting on AIRS program, particularly if asthma education home visits are reimbursable in the near future.

Comments: None

Old Business:

Director's Report:

- *D. McBride expressed his concerns with the Director of the Public Housing here in Milford specifically in regards to inspections that have occurred in relation to Hurricane Irene and recently a fire in a unit managed by the Milford Redevelopment & Housing Partnership. D. McBride added that his staff has worked with the Anthony Vasiliou, Executive Director on many issues of concern and the Health Department staff has offered various resources to this agency. D. McBride suggested that Board members accompany him to a meeting of the Milford Redevelopment & Housing Partnership to address our concerns as to the public health, safety and welfare of its residents, many residents consisting of the handicapped and disabled.*

New Business:

- *Dr. McBride and Board members welcomed new member Holly Mulrenan to the Board.*
- *C. Young stated that she sought information online from the State regarding Executive Session and rules associated. However she required clarification from the City Attorney as*

to specific reasons and handling appropriately according to the rules. She will bring that information back to the Board members.

Adjournment:

E. Judson motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by H. Mulrenan and approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Hayes, BS
Recorder